



Department of Justice

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton
Middle District of Florida

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Jacksonville Ocala Fort Myers
CONTACT: STEVE COLE
PHONE: (813) 274-6136
FAX: (813) 274-6300

RETIRED ORLANDO POLICE OFFICER ARRESTED **ON MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES**

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces the filing of an indictment charging retired Orlando Police Department officer Amy Bretches (age 49, of Cassleberry, Florida) with Money Laundering related to the theft of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds intended for the City of Orlando. If convicted on all counts, Bretches faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison. The indictment also notifies Bretches that the United States intends to seek forfeiture of assets allegedly traceable to proceeds of the offense.

According to the indictment, in July 2000, Bretches, a School Resource Officer, was assigned to Gang Resistance Education and Training. Soon after her assignment, Bretches opened two unauthorized accounts --a checking account and a savings account-- at Orlando Federal Credit Union (OFCU) in her name, listing identification information for the City of Orlando and the Orlando Police Department. She then opened a federal grant account for the City that was linked to the checking account, and she listed herself as the point of contact for grants. In October 2004, FEMA wired \$200,000 into Orlando's grant account to reimburse the City for costs associated with the Metropolitan Medical Response System, a program that assists local entities to prepare emergency supplies. The money

was transferred to Bretches's OFCU checking account. Bretches then transferred money from the checking account into her savings account, from the savings account into another savings account, and from the second savings account into a Certificate of Deposit.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, the State Attorney's Office in Orange County, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carlos A. Perez.